BUSCOE'S PROTEGE

By Richard Kann

Congright, 1908, by the S. S. McClure Company

◆50505**0**5**0**5**0**6**00**0**0**6**00000000** Crystal Falls never did amount to much as a show town. The capacity was \$500, with chairs in the aisles, but even at that a performance withbut a leading man was not to be thought of. And Hampton simply couldn't play that night and maybenot for several nights. A man who can't speak above a whisper isn't useful as a romantic lover on the stage, and since Buscoe was the sort of stage manager who didn't believe in carrying people on half salaries over the circuit on the chance that the leads awould break down Hampton had no understudy.

So it was planned to give Crystal Falls a "show," as Crystal Falls loved to call it, with Buscoe playing opposite his daughter, who was on the printed stuff as Marie Hamilton. Buscoe was twenty years too old for the part and didn't look the young lover any more than the character man did. But it was Crystal Falls, and Buscoe was resourceful.

He did a resourceful thing when he became stage manager of the production in which his daughter played the leads. He was able in that manner to disguise his duties as a father under the all powerful title of stage manager. It was believed by the company that a love affair was at the bottom of it; but, strangely enough, there were no details. It was known that his daughter, a beautiful girl, had fallen in love with a stage door adorer a year before. Fearful lest in his capacity as a mere father be would be unable to prevent a claudestine courtship and even marriage, he traveled with her. Nobody apparently except Miss Hamilton knew who the man was. Buscoe knew his name by reason of many intercepted notes, but had been unable to arrange a personal interview. He lived at Marie's botel, accompanied her to the theater and never allowed her to be entertained unless he was a member of the party. If there was any truth in the story, Marie behaved remarkably well for an actress who possessed youth and temperament.

At any rate her wounded heart, if she had one, never bled in public. Hampton, her leading man, had a wife and was one of Buscoe's few intimate friends. He was a mechanical actorwith a deep, resonant voice, and inwariably got good notices, although he would have been as willing to play the last act of "Camille" in a crimson set in summer stock as he would to have it in white.

Buscoe called a rehearsal before he essayed to play the part, but he wouldn't hold the manuscript while he ran over the scenes, and the result was that in the second act climax he went to pieces. He stood center with his arms outstretched to receive Marie with his mouth wide open.

"I beg your pardon," came from the wings, "but your line there, Mr. Buscoe, is, 'If I should say goodby, little

It was Jennings, the new property man, picked up at Kansas City three weeks before, when he didn't know a prop from a bunch light. He was a Buscoe protege at \$16 a week when the union scale was \$25. But even at that he didn't look like a property man. But he had come around with a desire to do anything in the company except to play a part, and he knew the play, he said, backward. Buscoe was looking for people who didn't care what their salaries were, and after Jennings had told him that "the compensation was of no consequence so long as he could live upon it" Buscoe had him on the salary list.

He was delightfully green, but at the end of three weeks he was a gem. Then he began to show signs of becoming a jewel.

The doorkeeper," he said one day to Buscoe, "is refusing bouquets for Miss Hamilton. Now, why couldn't be pick out the roses and allow me to use them instead of the prop bouquet in the second act?"

To which the resourceful Buscoe re plied: "Course. Use orchids if you want to. Only rip the cards off. I don't want any notes from anybody in the front of the house getting in here to my daughter."

After that Miss Hamilton frequently had real roses instead of rubber ones, and real roses were an improvement, especially since the business required Miss Hamilton to sniff them lovingly several times.

But the further utility of Jennings hadn't occurred to Buscoe until the interruption at the Crystal Falls rehears-

"See here, Jennings," said Buscoe suddenly. "Did you ever act?" "N-o-o-o," said Jennings slowly; "I

never did." "Do you know the part?" resourceful

Buscoe asked quickly. "Yes," said Jennings positively: "1

think I do. I've heard it every night for a month." "Marie," he said, "this is Mr. Jen-

nings. We are in Crystal Falls. Try a scene with him. Maybe he'll do to go on tonight." She smiled as she took his hand. "I

am very glad," she said, "that papa has introduced you." Turning to Buscoe, she added, still smiling: "He does look the part. doesn't he? Let's try it."

Buscoe told him, "that the twenty-five going around with it through water gent seats have a right to hear just as and through sky.

** the front rows. When you make stage love, make it loud." And after that Jennings reached them eas-

> That night be had three curtain calls for his first good scene at the end of the first act, something that had never happened to Hampton. Buscoe distiked to admit that he was astonished. He had watched the scene carefully, prepared to use the promptbook, but the manner in which Jennings humored the scene was marvelous. "He couldn't have done better," thought Buscoe, "if

he meant every word he spoke." He was in the act of congratulating himself once more upon his extreme four. foresight when a boy carrying a box of flowers walked hurriedly through the stage door and almost into his arms, "Who ordered these things?" roared

"A man from the show," sniffed the

If Buscoe was anything at all, he was resourceful. Dragging the boy to the side entrance, he pointed at Jennings. "Is that the man?" be asked him.

"That's him," said the boy. "I seen him do it."

"Send them back," said Buscoe, He could hardly wait to ring down to pounce upon the new property man.

"A boy came in here, Mr. Jennings," he said, "with a box of roses. You know the rules. I sent them back." "Haven't I the right," asked Jen-

nings very calmly, "to send flowers to myself if I wish?" Buscoe was speechless. "Of course

you have," he began, "but"-"And I have also the right, I believe," interrupted Jennings, "to send flowers to my wife. When you assumed to carefully guard your daughter from the man you knew she loved, a year ago, you made her promise not to marry him until you were sure enough of him to introduce him to her yourself. You thought you'd never do that, but you did introduce him this afternoon. She married him at 5 o'clock, She had no flowers at her wedding, so I thought it would be nice for her to have them tonight instead. I am very sorry you sent them back."

"Your name is Clark," asked Buscoe-"Robert Clark?" "I had a right to a stage name, didn't

I?" asked Jennings. "And you are"-

"Your son-in-law, my friend." "Well," said Buscoe, always resourceful, "I never saw a man play the lover any better. You'll stay until the end of the season, won't you?"

Culinary Courtship.

Janet had molded the domestic affairs of a Boston family for so many years that the news of her intended marriage had much the effect of an earthquake, "Have you and David been engaged long?" ventured the mistress of the household.

"One week when next Sabbath comes," stated Janet briefly.

"And-and had you any thought of marrying before that?" asked her mis-

"Times I had and times I had not," said the imperturbable Janet, "as any person will. But a month ago when I gave David a wee bit of the cake I'd been making and he said to me. 'Janet. have you the recipe firm in your mind. lass, so you could make it if Mrs. Mann's book would be far from your reach? I knew well the time was drawing short.

"And when," said Janet, closing her eyes at the recollection, "I said to him, little book of my own,' and I saw the glint in his eye I reckoned 'twould be within the month he'd ask me."-Youth's Companion.

Water Before Meals.

While the general opinion of those supposed to be authorities on this matter has been that the habit of drinking water at meals is a deleterious one, it is now stated, according to recent investigations, that a little water, if not too cold, is beneficial, as it assists in the digestion of food. A too copious supply of water dilutes the gastric juice, and if too cold it lowers the temperature of the stomach below normal. thus impairing digestion. If, however, it at first sight, translating into Engwater is taken in limited quantities, the peptones formed by the action of gastric juice on food will be washed aside. thereby facilitating absorption. By this means the undigested food is laid bare and is more susceptible to further action of the gastric juice. During the period of rest phlegm, being very tenacious, prevents the free flow of gastric juice for some time, hence delays digestion. A drink of water before meals is recommended because it loosens and washes away this deposit of mucus, thereby permitting the gastric juice to attack the food as it enters the stomach.-Boston Transcript.

Benedict Arnold In 1775.

The prestige of Arnold at the beginping of the Revolution is thus reflected in Professor Justin H. Smith's description in the Century of the heroic "battle with the wilderness" in the march

to Quebec, under Arnold's command: The name of the leader, too, excited enthusiasm. Dorothy Dudley and the rest of the ladies in Cambridge loved to gossip about a man whom they described as "darlingly and desperately brave, sanguinely hopeful, of restless activity, intelligent and enterprising, gay and gallant, and the soldier lads told one another admiringly how he teur, "she became insane through exmarched through the wicket gate at old Ticonderoga shoulder to shoulder with Ethan Allen, how be threatened to break into the magazine at New Idiot.-Baltimore American. Haven unless the selectmen would hand over the keys within five minutes when his company heard the news of Well, one trial convinced Buscoe that Lexington and wanted to set out for pily married? he was safe-for Crystal Falls. There | Cambridge and even how he used to was only one thing badly wrong with astonish the other boys years before ried.-Kansas City Independent. the new man. "You must remember," by seizing the great water wheel and

A REAL BOY WONDER

THE PHENOMENAL EARLY CAREER OF WILLIAM PITT.

Although Sickly and Delicate, This English Lad Was Intellectually One of the Most Remarkable Youths the World Has Ever Known.

One of the most remarkable boys the world ever saw was William Pitt. He age of seven. He became prime minister of England when he was twenty

He was a sickly boy, but he took all the out of door exercise his delicate immaculate Ingalis. frame could bear and was as eager to work, and he was reading ancient hisreading stories written in words of entire chamber, Ingalis said: one syllable.

His father was the great Earl of Chatham, and the boy was brought into contact with all the great men of the time in England. When he was thirteen years old he wrote a tragedy which he called "Laurentine, King of Clarinium."

At this age, too, he was able to read Greek and Latin almost as well as he could English. He also was well informed on the politics of the day and on a variety of subjects about which only men of learning are supposed to know anything.

At fourteen he was able to take the works of Thucydides, written in Greek, and read page after page, turning it into excellent English as he read, and this off hand translation of his is said to have been almost without a flaw.

His father spoke of him as "eager Mr. William, the counselor, the philosopher." At the age of fourteen he entered the great University of Cambridge in England and at once, in spite of his youth, took a high place among the students at that celebrated place of learning.

When he went to Cambridge, the boy was in such feeble health that he had to be accompanied by a nurse, and all through his course there he was in so poor a condition, physically, that it was doubted if he ever would be able to finish the course.

But hard study seemed to agree with him, and when he was graduated, at the age of seventeen, he was much stronger than when he entered the uni-

At an age when most boys are preparing to enter college, or, if they are very clever, have just become freshmen, young Pitt won the degree of master of arts from one of the greatest universities in the world and began the study of law.

At twenty-one he was admitted to the bar, and the same year was elected a member of parliament, to become prime minister three years later.

While he was yet a law student and only eighteen years old he attracted the attention of prominent men by his clear views on the questions of government, which then were perplexing the rulers of England. The boy was invited everywhere, and men holding the most important offices listened to his advice and asked his opinions.

His friends wanted him to go into parliament when he was twenty and all predicted for him a brilliant career. It was curious to see this delicate stripling, a boy in looks and years, meeting the great and wise men of the country as an equal and conversing on even David, lad, the recipe is copied in a terms with the most learned scholars of the day.

Young Pitt used to like to listen to the debates in the British parliament, and Mr. Fox, the great statesman, meeting him once after a debate, was astonished at the manner in which the boy criticised the eminent men who had spoken and pointed out where they could have made their argument

One of the hardest works to understand that ever were written is a book called "Cassandra," written by a man named Lycophronis. It is written in Greek. A learned man placed the book in the hands of young Pitt when the boy was sixteen years old, and he read lish as be read and explaining it in a manner which made the learned man declare that had he not seen it he would have believed it to be beyond the power of human intellect.'

When Pitt was sixteen, his father declared that he would be a great statesman and was the hope of the country. Other folks soon became of his father's way of thinking, and that is why they put him into parliament when he was so young and made him prime minister so soon after.

He fulfilled all that was expected of him and ruled England during thirteen of the most eventful years of her history.—Detroit Free Press.

A Slander. "See here!" said the city editor. "You

speak of the bride as being 'led to the altar.' "Yes, sir. What of it?" replied the re-

porter. "What of it? Why, it's nonsense. There was never a bride yet who couldn't find her way there, no matter what were the obstacles." - London Tit-Bits.

Natural Sequence. "Yes," concluded the medical raconcessive dancing."

"One might say she was hopping mad, I suppose!" gurgled the cheerful

A Difference. The Friend-Is your daughter hap-

The Father-Well, happily she's mar-

Good order is the foundation of al' good things .- Burke.

He Demanded Protection.

Benator Van Wyck of Nebraska in speaking had a peculiar style of dellyery, and as he warmed to his subject it was his habit to move restlessly from one side of the chamber to the other, continually talking. He talked so fast that he often "spluttered," and senators were careful to keep out of range of the moisture he hissed through his closely set teeth.

Mr. Ingalis and Mr. Spooner once sat directly in front of "Mr. Punch," as astonished folk with his learning at the | Senator Van Wyck was often called because of his resemblance to that noted character, when he was delivering an impassioned utterance, and an atom of spray rested upon the hand of the

He adjusted his spectacles, carefully study as most boys are to play. He inspected his solied hand and deliberwould not let his weak body stop his ately signaled for one of the pages to come to him. Then in one of his fatory at an age when most children are mous whispers, which penetrated the

"Boy, bring an umbrella for Senator Spooner and a rubber overcoat for me." The incident provoked general laughter, but it did not interfere with Van Wyck's speech. He simply shifted his position so as to get beyond range of his always faultlessly dressed and sarcastic colleague.-Washington Post.

Terne.

It is truly surprising what erroneous ideas are entertained by the general public concerning the true meaning of many terms in general use. A striking example of this is the word "terne" as applied to tin plate. Usually it is understood that this word is derived from the French one, meaning "dull." This is totally incorrect. Terne plate is a sheet or plate of iron and steel covered with an alloy of tin and lead in the proportion of two-thirds lead and one-third tin. It is this union of the three metals-iron, lead and tin-that gave rise to the word terne plate, terne being an equivalent to the English terne, meaning "threefold." The origin of the erroneous definition of this term was the fact that because of the large percentage of lead used in coating terne plates it is duller in hue than the ordinary tin plate, which is frequently designated "bright plate" in contradistinction to the former.

The Fire God's Wrath.

A curious story comes to us from the suburbs. A resident in the near neighborhood of London has a museum in his house in which the principal curiosity is a fire god which has been worshiped for many centuries in an Indian temple. Once when the owner of the house took a party of people to look at the museum he proposed in fun that they should all kotow to the image. This they all laughingly consented to do, all except two ladies, who declared it was wicked. The fire god was revenged within two months. One of the ladies had her house burned to the ground the week after, and the other one on a later date fell backward into the fire and sustained some terrible burns. We give the tale without comment.-London Chronicle.

Transportation Facilities.

Moritz Gottlieb Saphir, a journalist and one of the wittiest men of the Jewish race in Germany, once criticised King Ludwig's verses so sharply that he was ordered, says Household Words, to quit Munich within twenty-four

The court chamberlain waited upon the journalist with the king's command and, having delivered it, considerately asked:

"Do you think that you can get away in that time?"

"Yes, I think so," Saphir said, "but if my own legs can't take me quick enough I'll borrow some of the superfluous feet in his majesty's last volume in Ireland in 1608. They were English of verse.'

The Japanese Stable.

We can learn from the Japanese thing or two about stabling horses. In Japan horses are backed into their stalls: then a door is closed at the head. which has a grain and hayrack conveniently constructed, to which the nag is secured. When needed, the door is swung back and the horse led forth. No one gets kicked, no refuse matter is visible to the visitor, and it seems to be a sensible way to construct a place for any horse.

Healthful.

Miss Jellus-Your bedroom must be a ery healthy place, dear. Miss Prettiface-What makes you

think so? "Because I have noticed that when you are downstairs sometimes you are dreadfully pale, but if you go up into your bedroom for a short time you come down with a beautiful color."

More Than Justice.

Mrs. Newriche-Now, here's my latest portrait in oils, and I must say I'm perfectly satisfied with it. I'm sure it does me justice. Don't you think so? Mrs. Cuttinge-Yes, indeed; justice tempered with mercy!-Brooklyn Life.

She Was a Poor Guesser. Wife-That young man who calls on our daughter has me guessing.

Husband-How's that? Wife-I don't know whether he is economical or has a grudge against the gas company.-Chicago News.

"Is this, then, to be the end of our romance?" he asked. "No," she answered. "My lawyer

Only the Beginning.

will call on you in the morning. I have a bushel and a half of your letters."-Chicago Record-Herald.

Miss Primrose-Don't you ever give

your dog any exercise? Miss Hollyhock (fondling a fat pug dog)-Of course. I feed him with chocolates every few minutes just to make him wag his tail.

The First Lawbook.

ABOVE

is the unique trade mark design of the

National Biscuit Company. Always printed

in red and white on each end of the package

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NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY

THE SPIDER TREE.

A Curlous Product of the Cape Negro

Country of Africa.

Travelers who visited or passed the

Cape Negro country of Africa often

heard from the natives of a plant that

was part spider and that, growing,

threw its legs about in continual strug-

gles to escape. It was the good fortune

of Dr. Welwitsch to discover the origin

of the legend. Strolling along through

a wind swept tableland country, he

came upon a plant that rested low

upon the ground, but had two enormous

leaves that blew and twisted about in

the wind like serpents-in fact, it look-

ed, as the natives had said, like a gi-

Its stem was four feet across and

but a foot high. It had but two leaves

In reality, that were six or eight feet

long and split up by the wind so that

they resembled ribbons. This is prob-

ably the most extraordinary tree

known. It grows for nearly, if not

quite, a century, but never upward be-

yond about a foot, simply expanding

until it reaches the diameter given,

looking in its adult state like a singu-

lar stool on the plain from ten to eight-

When the wind came rushing in from

the sea, lifting the curious ribbon-like

leaves and tossing them about, it al-

most seemed to the discoverer that the

strange plant had suddenly become im-

bued with life and was struggling to

escape. When a description and pic-

ture of the plant were sent to England

it was, like many other discoveries, dis-

credited, but soon the plant itself was

received, and now Welwitschia mira-

Undertakers.

men of influence who undertook for a

consideration to get such persons re-

turned to parliament as would prove

submissive to the royal will of King

James I. The three chief undertakers

of 1614 were Lords Bacon, Somerset

and Neville. They undertook to bribe

the chief speakers and men of influ-

ence in parliament that year over to

the side of the king, with but partial

success. Then there were undertakers

and Scotch colonists sent to north Ire-

fand and were each allotted 2,000 acres

of land. They were men of capital and

every six acres and to admit no recu-

applied to them. But neither the his-

Almost Lived There.

During a burglary epidemic in the

country an inspector of the police force

one night made a tour through the bur-

glarized district. Considerably after

midnight he saw a young man emerge

noiselessly from a substantial home-

"Did you just come out of that cor-

ner house?" the inspector asked, over-

The young man, while of respectable

"Do you live there?" demanded the

"Well, almost," was the embarrassed

answer. "But I can't see that it's any

of your business as long as her father

Animals and Alcohol.

Many animals yield to the seduction

of rum drinking, especially elephants,

horses, cows and swine. Poultry, espe-

cially turkeys, will absorb the tempting

drink till they tumble over in leaden

sleep, lying around as if dead and ut-

terly ignoring their accustomed roost.

hours before they renew their cheerful

As a Precedent.

Better Than a Hea.

Customer (in grocery)-Are those eggs

Grocer's Boy - Yes, ma'am. 'Tain't

to kiss that plain cousin of yours?

doesn't object."-London Tit-Bits.

appearance, was plainly ill at ease and

stead and made after him.

dead undertakers.

hauling him.

"I did," he said.

confused.

aspector.

cackling.

you know.

fresh?

In England in 1614 undertakers were

een inches in circumference.

billis is known to botanists.

gantic spider.

The well known Assyriologist, Dr. Hugo Winckler, published an account of the legislation promulgated by King Amraphel of Babylon, which, so far as is known at present, was the first book of laws ever given to the world. King Amraphel lived 2,250 years B. C. and is mentioned in the Bible as a contemporary of Abraham, so that his statutes were drawn up fully five centuries before the laws of Moses. They number 282 and contain the following:

"If a woman who sells beverages gives bad value for the money paid her, she shall be thrown into water.

"If a wife be a spendthrift or if she otherwise neglect her duties, her husband may put her away without compensation, but if a man put away his wife for no other reason than that she has no children he shall return her whole dowry.

"If a betrothal be rescinded, the man shall pay the woman compensation. "A widow with grown up children

may not marry again without permission from a judge."-London Express.

Uninsured Treasures.

It is startling to think that while almost any tradesman's shop that might be burned down is covered by insurance the British museum, if it were burned down tomorrow, would not cost the insurance companies one halfpenny. Neither would the houses of parliament. They stand for £3,000,000. but not one single sovereign of this vast sum is covered by insurance. Three thousand pounds a year is spent on a force of police and firemen to protect the houses of parliament by day and night, and the British pays the rent of a fireman's house in Coram street, but that is the full cost of the precautions against fire in these places. The British museum, believing that prevention is better than cure, has no artificial light on its innermost vecesses.-St. James Gazette.

Had Good Reason to Worry. They are telling this story of the pastor of a metropolitan church who has

A woman came to him and begged that he read her hand. She was a spinster, and an interesting network of lines had spread over her palm with the years. The minister decided to give her a bit of advice.

made a study of palmistry and kindred

undertook to pay a mark a year for "You should never think of marriage," he said.

sant for tenants. Hence the name as "I don't," replied the spinster promptly; "I worry about it." - New York tories nor the dictionaries give any reason for calling the men who bury our



BEAUTY TRIUMPHS. 'Tis a Priceless Treasure.

Beauty is woman's greatest charm. The world adores beautiful women. A pretty woman dreads maternity for fear of losing this power. What can be done to perpetuate the race and keep women beautiful? There is a balm used by cultured and uncultured women in the crisis. Husbands should investigate this remedy in order to reassure their wives as to the ease with which children can be born and beauty of form and figure retained.

On awakening they stagger for a few moments and soon recover, but it is Mother's Friend is the name by which this preparation is known. It diminishes the pain allied to

motherhood. Used throughout pregnancy it relieves morning sickness, cures sore Tom-Why were you so determined breasts, makes elastic all tendons called apon to hold the expanding burden. Muscles soften and relax under its influ-Dick-I wanted to establish a preceence and the patient anticipates favorably dent. She has two very pretty sisters, the issue, in the comfort thus bestowed.

Mother's Friend is a liniment for external application. It is gently rubbed over the parts so severely taxed, and being absorbed lubricates all the muscles.

Druggists sell it for \$1 per bottle. You may have our book "Notherhood" free. been a hour since I laid 'em in that box. THE BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO., ATLANTA, GA.